

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this reply, Claims 1, 10-12, 14-26 are amended. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action correctly states that the “machine-readable storage medium” in claims 14-26 is not merely printed paper, transmission media, signals, or any form of energy. In accordance with this understanding, Claims 14-26 now recite a “volatile or non-volatile machine-readable storage medium.” To the extent that the rejection was not previously withdrawn, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0014394 (“Fujiwara”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

**EVERY PENDING CLAIM FEATURES A TAG THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO A
DATABASE LANGUAGE OF SAID DATABASE STATEMENT**

Every pending claim features receiving a request that includes both a database statement and “a tag that does not conform to a database language of said database statement.” In a particular embodiment described in Applicants’ specification, an execution interface includes a SQL database statement and an XML tag. par. [0036]-[0045]. In one example of a particular embodiment described, the execution interface is: DBMS_SQL.PARSE(cursr, ‘SELECT * FROM emp’, v7, ‘resource=g1 id=scott’). par. [0041].

FUJIWARA MODIFIES AN ORIGINAL SQL QUERY BY REPLACING A SQL COLUMN
REFERENCE WITH A SQL CALL TO A MASKING FUNCTION, RESULTING IN A
MODIFIED SQL QUERY

Fujiwara does not show receiving a request that includes a database statement and “a tag that does not conform to a database language of said database statement,” as featured in every pending claim.

Fujiwara (par. [0053]) involves a translation process for masking cells that a user is not privileged to access. Fujiwara explains (par. [0071]): “Where the access policy calls for a column reference to be masked, the column reference is replaced with an appropriate function call to a mask function.” Fujiwara continues (par. [0074]): “Continuing with FIG. 12, the translation process 1210 converts an original query 1102 into a translated query 1202. The translated query is then transmitted to the DBMS 702, where the query is executed.” **The translated query 1202 is a SQL query. See FIG. 12, item 1202.**

As also described in paragraph [0054], the “mask functions are defined by conventional SQL-type syntax for user-defined function calls” or by redefining the SQL language “to include mask function capability.” **In other words, the mask functions are either (1) conventional calls already defined in SQL (i.e., language that conforms to SQL), or (2) mask function calls supported in a modified version of SQL (i.e., language that conforms to SQL version that supports mask functions) that is used by the database server. Either way, the calls to the mask functions conform to the language of the database statement.** Fujiwara does not describe a request that includes both a database statement “and a tag that does not conform to a database language of said database statement,” as featured in every pending claim.

In an effort to promote an accurate understanding of the art of record, the figures of Fujiwara are discussed in more detail below.

FIG. 11 OF FUJIWARA

FIG. 11 shows an **original SQL query** “written using conventional SQL constructs” that includes “a SELECT statement, specifying one or more column references (sometimes referred to as attributes, fields, etc.), which constitute the result of the query.” Par. [0068], [0072].

```
SELECT c.PT_ID,  
       i.VST,  
       p.P_NM,  
       p.AGE, p.SEX,  
       i.MD_ID,  
       m.D_NM,  
       i.DRG, i.STAY, ...  
FROM INPT_FACT i, MD_FACT m, PT_FACT p  
WHERE i.PT_ID=p.PT_ID AND i.MD_ID = m.MD_ID AND ...;
```

FIG. 12 OF FUJIWARA

FIG. 12 shows the **original SQL query and the translated SQL query**. “As can be seen the translation process 1210 is simply a textual replacement in the original query of the masked column references by their corresponding function calls.” Par. [0073]. “Continuing with FIG. 12, the translation process 1210 converts an original query 1102 [FIG. 11] into a translated query 1202. The translated query is then transmitted to the DBMS 702, where the query is executed.”

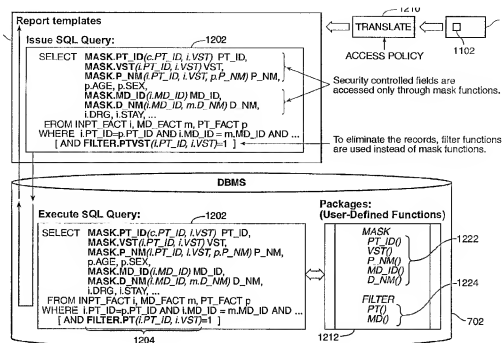


FIG. 13 OF FUJIWARA

FIG. 13 shows a **translated SQL query** effectuating “changes to the access policy,” reflecting change “to add AGE column as a mask column.” Par. [0039], [0078].

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SELECT MASK.PT_ID(c.PT_ID, i.VST) PT_ID,
       MASK.VST(i.PT_ID, i.VST) VST,
       MASK.P_NM(i.PT_ID, i.VST, p.P_NM) P_NM,
       {MASK.AGE(i.PT_ID, i.VST, p.AGE) AGE, }
       p.SEX,
       MASK.MD_ID(i.MD_ID) MD_ID,
       MASK.D_NM(i.MD_ID, m.D_NM) D_NM,
       i.DRG, i.STAY, ...
FROM INPT_FACT i, MD_FACT m, PT_FACT p
WHERE i.PT_ID=p.PT_ID AND i.MD_ID=m.MD_ID AND ... ;
    
```

Fujiwara does not show receiving a request that includes both a database statement and “a tag that does not conform to a database language of said database statement,” as featured in every pending claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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